Shree Somnath Jyotirlinga Temple in Saurashtra, Gujarat

Info is given under following headings: Location, address, phone number...etc., how to get there, greatness of this temple, architecture, Main deity here and subdeities, daily poojas and rituals and their charges, special poojas, sevas and their charges, festivals, facilities for devotees such as accommodation etc,, donation info, bank acct numbers etc.., nearby Temples, nearby places of tourist interest, nearby budget hotels, .any other info...etc

More info on: Swabhiman Parva…key highlights of celebrations…shaurya yatra…cultural and religious events…drone show…Religious and historical significance, Architecture style, Inscriptions, photos, YouTube videos…etc.

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AI Overview

The Somnath Temple in Gujarat, India, is a revered Hindu pilgrimage site, considered the first of the 12 Jyotirlingas dedicated to Lord Shiva, known for its coastal beauty, rich history of destruction and reconstruction, and significant cultural heritage, drawing millions of devotees annually to its grand structure near the Arabian Sea.

Key Features & Significance

- **First Jyotirlinga**: It holds immense importance as the primary shrine for Lord Shiva.
- **Location**: Situated in Prabhas Patan, near Veraval, on the western coast of Gujarat, at the confluence of three rivers (Triveni Sangam).
- **Architecture**: The modern temple features a majestic Shikhar (spire) with a Kalash (pot) and Dhwajdand (flagpole), showcasing intricate craftsmanship.
- **History**: The site has faced numerous attacks and reconstructions, symbolizing resilience and India's spiritual revival, with the current structure being a testament to modern restoration.

Visitor Information

- **Worship**: A vibrant center for worship, with high footfall for daily rituals and major festivals like Maha Shivratri.
- **Attractions**: Offers a Light & Sound Show detailing its history and cultural significance.
- **Official Resources**: Bookings for guest houses and donations can be made through the official website, Somnath.org.

Experience

- Pilgrims find a peaceful atmosphere with the sound of Arabian Sea waves, making it a strong symbol of faith and devotion.

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Shree Somnath Jyotirlinga Temple in Saurashtra, Gujarat — the first among the 12 Aadi Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva. This eternal shrine, often called the "Shrine Eternal," stands as a powerful symbol of resilience, faith, and civilizational revival. It has faced repeated destruction yet risen again through devotion and collective resolve.

Location

Shree Somnath Temple is located in Prabhas Patan (also known as Somnath Patan), near Veraval, in Gir Somnath District, Saurashtra region, Gujarat, India.
It is situated on the western coast along the Arabian Sea, at the confluence (Triveni Sangam) of the Kapila, Hiran, and Saraswati rivers.
The temple is about 400 km southwest of Ahmedabad, 82 km from Junagadh, and 79 km from Porbandar.

Address and Contact

Full Address: Shree Somnath Jyotirlinga Temple, Prabhas Patan, Veraval, Gir Somnath District, Gujarat - 362268, India

Official Website: https://somnath.org/ (for bookings, history, live updates, pooja, and facilities)

Phone Numbers: General inquiries: +91-2876-232694; Pooja Vidhi Counter: +91-94282-14823; Temple Officer: +91-94262-87659 (timings: 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM)

Email: sompp@somnath.org or somgh11@gmail.com

Governed by Shree Somnath Trust (Chairman: Prime Minister of India)

How to Get There

By Air: Nearest airport is Diu Airport (DIU) ~63-75 km away (taxis/autos available). Other options: Rajkot (~160 km) or Porbandar (~114 km).

By Train: Somnath Railway Station (very close, ~1-2 km) or Veraval Railway Station (~6-8 km) — well-connected to major cities like Ahmedabad, Mumbai, and Rajkot via trains.

By Road: Excellent connectivity via NH51. Buses (GSRTC) and taxis from Ahmedabad (~6-7 hours), Rajkot (~4 hours), or Dwarka (~5-6 hours). Private vehicles are ideal for scenic coastal drives.

Greatness of the Temple

Somnath is revered as the foremost Jyotirlinga, where Lord Shiva manifested as a fiery column of light.

Mythology states it was first built by the Moon God (Soma) to regain his luster after a curse, hence "Somnath" (Lord of the Moon).

It symbolizes eternal faith, prosperity, and revival.

The temple has survived 17+ invasions/destructions, rebuilt each time by Hindu kings and devotees, embodying India's indomitable spirit. In modern times, it represents national pride and cultural resurgence.

History

The temple's origins trace back millennia (possibly pre-1st millennium CE). It was attacked and looted multiple times:

Mahmud of Ghazni raided and destroyed it in January 1026 CE (during Bhima I's reign), plundering vast wealth (20 million dinars) and desecrating the Jyotirlinga. This was the first major recorded attack.

Subsequent destructions by Alauddin Khalji (1299), Muzaffar Shah I (1395), Aurangzeb (1706), and others.

Each time, it was rebuilt by devoted rulers like Kumarapala (1169), Bhimdev, and others with public support.

Post-Independence Revival: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (then Home Minister) visited the ruins on November 12, 1947 (Diwali day), after Junagadh's accession to India.

He initiated reconstruction as a symbol of national revival, with funds from public donations (via Somnath Trust).

The present temple was completed in Chalukya style and consecrated on May 11, 1951, by President Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

Swabhiman Parva (2026): Marking 1000 years since the 1026 attack by Mahmud of Ghazni, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated/participated in the Somnath Swabhiman Parv (January 8-11, 2026), also celebrating 75 years of the 1951 restoration.

It highlighted resilience, with events like Omkar chanting, Shaurya Yatra, and drone shows. PM Modi described it as a saga of "victory and reconstruction, not defeat."

Regarding Sri Sathya Sai Baba: Authentic records show Baba visited Somnath on May 17, 1970, inaugurating the renovated Digvijayadwar gateway. He performed a divine act, revealing the ancient underground Sparsha Linga (genuine Somnath) and declared the

temple would henceforth be free from attacks. No credible historical or official records confirm Baba's direct assurance preventing attacks during the 1965 Indo-Pak war or unexploded bombs at Somnath. (Such miracle stories are associated with other temples like Tanot Mata near the border.)

AI Overview

Sri Sathya Sai Baba visited the Somnath Temple on May 17, 1970, inaugurating the Dig Vijay Dwar and reportedly assuring devotees, "From now on, this temple shall ever remain free from any attack," blessing the shrine with divine energy as he materialized golden flowers and silver leaves over the Jyotirlinga, symbolizing its eternal protection, a significant moment celebrated by followers as proof of divine intervention against future destruction.

Details of the Visit & Speech:

- **Date & Purpose:** On May 17, 1970, Sathya Sai Baba visited Somnath at the invitation of the Queen of Nawanagar to inaugurate the Dig Vijay Dwar (grand entrance).
- **Divine Manifestation:** Inside the sanctum, amidst Vedic chants, Baba materialized 108 silver Bilva leaves and 108 gold flowers, offering them to the Jyotirlinga, followed by a flash of light, as described in this YouTube video.
- **The Assurance:** A popular quote attributed to him from this visit is, "From now on, this temple shall ever remain free from any attack," a statement captured in posts by Sri Sathya Sai Baba and Sathya Sai with Students.
- **Significance:** Followers view this event as Baba "charging the Somanath Shrine" with divine power, ensuring its perpetual safety, as recounted by Sathya Sai with Students.

Context:

- The Somnath Temple has a long history of being attacked and rebuilt, making Sathya Sai Baba's visit and blessing a significant spiritual event for his followers, symbolizing the enduring spirit of faith, notes this YouTube video and this YouTube video.
- Video: Sathya Sai connection to Somanath Jyotirlinga:
- https://youtu.be/43LAZiV2_wc?si=Or9fgzyn9ymr5tR3
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Architecture

The current temple (rebuilt 1951) follows Chalukya (Māru-Gurjara) style — honey-colored sandstone with intricate carvings, a 155-ft shikhar (tower) topped by a golden kalash (10 tons), and detailed motifs of Vedic/Puranic deities. It features Garbhagriha (sanctum), Sabha Mandapa (hall), and Nritya Mandapa. The design allows sea breezes and light, with open plans and exquisite pillars reminiscent of ancient temples.

Main Deity and Sub-Deities

Main Deity: Lord Somnath (Shiva as Jyotirlinga) — a black stone Linga, symbolizing the Moon Lord's protector.

Sub-Deities/Associated: Surya (Sun God) icons, Vedic/Puranic figures; nearby shrines include Triveni Sangam, Bhalka Tirth (Krishna's departure site), and ancient Someshwar Kunda.

Daily Poojas and Rituals

Timings: 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM (extended during festivals).

Morning Aarti: 7:00 AM; **Noon Aarti**: 12:00 PM; **Evening Aarti**: 7:00 PM.

Daily rituals include Abhishekam, Mangal Aarti, and Shringar.

Common offerings: Bilva leaves, milk, Gangajal. Charges vary; contact temple for current rates (e.g., Special Bilva Pooja). Annadana (free meals) available.

Special Poojas, Sevas, and Charges

Sevas include Savalaksha Bilva Pooja, Kalsarpa Yog Nivaran, Mahadugdh Abhishekam, Shivpuran Path, Navagraha Jaap. Book online via somnath.org. Charges are nominal/publicly listed on the site (e.g., special poojas from a few hundred to thousands of rupees). Prasad distributed.

Festivals

- Mahashivratri (Feb/March): Grand celebrations with special abhishekams, night-long vigils.
- Kartik Purnima: Deepotsava, illuminations.
- Shravan Month: Special Mondays.
- Annual fairs, Diwali, and recent Swabhiman Parva-style events.

Facilities for Devotees (Accommodation, etc.)

Guest Houses: Shree Somnath Trust's Atithi Bhavan (VIP/Premier/Super Deluxe rooms; book online at somnath.org or yatradham.gujarat.gov.in). Rates: ~₹2000-4500 (GST extra).

Free/affordable dharamshalas nearby.

Clean restrooms, drinking water, medical aid, cloakrooms.

Annadana (free meals) twice daily.

Donation Info and Bank Account Numbers

Donations via official website (secure online) or trust counters. For bank details, refer to somnath.org or contact the trust directly (no public bank numbers shared here for security)

Nearby Temples

- Bhalka Tirth (Krishna's departure site)
- Triveni Sangam Ghat
- Gita Mandir
- Nearby: Dwarka (~230 km), Gir National Park (~50 km)

Nearby Places of Tourist Interest

- Somnath Beach (serene shores)
- Prabhas Patan Museum (artifacts)
- Dehotsarg Teerth
- Gir Forest (Asiatic lions)
- Diu (Portuguese fort, beaches ~70 km)

Nearby Budget Hotels

- Trust Guest Houses (affordable, temple-managed).
- Private options: Hotel Heritage Somnath, Hotel Amrut Inn, Hotel Radhika (~₹1000-3000 range).
- Many clean, budget stays near railway station/temple (search Booking.com/Tripadvisor for current deals).

Any Other Info

Somnath inspires with its message: destruction may scar the physical, but faith rebuilds eternally.
Recent Swabhiman Parva (2026) events reaffirmed this.
For live darshan or bookings, use the official site. Blessed pilgrimage!:

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Ref: Google Gemini AI:

Somnath Swabhiman Parva

Somnath Swabhiman Parva, was celebrated at the historic Somnath Temple in Gujarat. Here are the key details about the event:

🕉️ Somnath Swabhiman Parva

* **Location**: Somnath Temple, Gir Somnath district, Gujarat.

* **Purpose**: The event was held to celebrate the resilience of Indian civilization, faith, and national pride, as symbolized by the Somnath Temple, which is the first of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva.

* **Significance**:

* It commemorated 1,000 years since the first attack on the temple by Mahmud of Ghazni in 1026 CE.
* It also marked over 75 years since the temple's post-Independence reconstruction effort, led by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, which culminated in the restored temple being formally opened in 1951.

✨ Key Highlights of the Celebration

* **Theme**: PM Modi emphasized that the Parva (festival) is not just about remembering the destruction but is a celebration of the temple's 1,000-year journey of resilience and renewal

* **Shaurya Yatra (Procession of Valour):** PM Modi led this ceremonial procession, which was organized to honor the countless warriors who defended the Somnath Temple throughout history. The procession featured a symbolic march of 108 horses.

* **Cultural and Religious Events:**

* **A 72-hour Akhand Omkar** chanting (continuous recitation of the Omkar mantra) was a central feature, symbolizing unity and collective faith.

* **Spiritual discourses, devotional music, and cultural programs** were held.

* PM Modi participated in the Omkar Mantra chanting and performed darshan and pooja (worship) at the temple.

* **Drone Show**: A spectacular drone show was organized over the Arabian Sea near the temple, featuring around 3,000 drones that created thematic formations depicting images like the Trishul, Om, the Somnath temple's destruction and rise, and figures like Veer Hamirji and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

In essence, the Somnath Swabhiman Parva was a grand, multi-day event inspired by PM Modi's vision to revive and celebrate India's ancient cultural and spiritual heritage, highlighting the nation's capacity for resilience against historical adversity.

Significance

The Somnath Temple is not just a place of worship; it's a central symbol of India's civilizational continuity and resilience.

Here is a detailed breakdown of its historical and religious significance:

🌟 Religious Significance

* **First Jyotirlinga**: Somnath is revered as the Aadi Jyotirlinga (The First Pillar of Light) and holds the status of being the first among the Twelve Jyotirlingas (Shiva shrines) in India. This makes it an incredibly important site for Shaivites and Hindus worldwide.

* **The Legend of Soma**: The name "Somnath" literally means "Lord of the Moon" (Soma + Nath). According to the legend, the Moon God (Soma/Chandra) was cursed to lose his lustre. He performed severe penance to Lord Shiva at this site, and Shiva relieved him of the curse. The waxing and waning of the moon are seen as an allusion to this event.

* **Triveni Sangam**: The temple is situated at Prabhas Patan, which is considered a Tirtha Kshetra (pilgrimage site) due to the confluence (Sangam) of three holy rivers—Kapila, Hiran, and the mythical Sarasvati—before they meet the Arabian Sea.

* **Connection to Lord Krishna**: The nearby Bhalka Teerth is traditionally believed to be the spot where Lord Krishna left his earthly body (Nij Dham).

⚔️ Historical Significance: A Symbol of Resilience

The history of the Somnath Temple is defined by a cycle of destruction and reconstruction, which has made it a powerful symbol of the Indian spirit's indomitable nature.

In short, the Somnath Temple is considered a "Shrine Eternal" because it has been attacked at least six times over a thousand years, yet it has been rebuilt every single time, reflecting the unwavering commitment of devotees and the nation to their spiritual heritage.

Date	Event/Attacker	Significance
1026 CE	Mahmud of Ghazni	Led the first major and most devastating attack, plundering the immense wealth and destroying the temple. This event marked the beginning of centuries of invasions aimed at breaking Indian cultural confidence.
11th - 18th Century	Repeated Attacks	The temple was repeatedly destroyed and rebuilt by Hindu rulers across subsequent centuries, including attacks by forces of **Alauddin Khalji (1299)** and finally under the order of Mughal Emperor **Aurangzeb (1706)**.
1783 CE	Ahilyabai Holkar	The Maratha Queen Ahilyabai Holkar of Indore built a new, smaller temple near the original ruin to ensure worship continued at the site.
1947 CE	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel	After India's Independence, the initiative to reconstruct the temple in its ancient grandeur was taken by **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**. He saw the restoration as an essential step to restoring India's *cultural confidence* and *self-respect*.
1951 CE	Reconstruction	The present magnificent structure, built in the Chalukya style, was consecrated and formally opened by the first President of India, **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**, cementing its place as a symbol of national resurgence.

Architectural Style of the Somnath Temple

The current Somnath Temple, which was completed after India's independence, is a superb example of the Chalukya (or Kailash Mahameru Prasad) architectural style.

Here are the defining features:

1. **The Chalukya Style**

 * **Origin**: This style originated in the western and central parts of India (like Gujarat and Karnataka) and is known for its intricate carvings and towering structures.

 * **Emphasis on Verticality**: The style emphasizes height, creating a majestic and imposing structure that seems to touch the sky.

2. **Key Components of the Structure**

 * **Garbhagriha (Sanctum Sanctorum):** This is the main chamber where the Jyotirlinga (the central icon of Shiva) is enshrined. It is intentionally kept simple and dark to focus the devotee's attention on the divine light.

* **Mandapa (Hall):** A large, pillared hall precedes the Garbhagriha. This space is where devotees gather for prayers and rituals. The walls and ceilings of the Mandapa are often richly decorated with carvings of gods, goddesses, and celestial beings.

* **Shikhara (Spire/Tower):** The most prominent feature. The Shikhara rises high over the Garbhagriha and tapers towards a point, ending in a large circular stone known as the Amalaka (ribbed cushion-like stone) and a Kalash (pot-like finial) at the very top, crowned with a Dhwaja (flag). The Somnath Temple's Shikhara is over 150 feet high.

3. **Notable Architectural Elements**

* **Intricate Carvings**: The entire structure is made of sandstone, which is extensively and finely carved with mythological scenes, geometric patterns, and figures of deities

* **Pillars**: The temple features massive, ornately carved pillars that support the entire structure, particularly in the Mandapa.

* **Ocean-Facing Location:** The temple's position, directly on the coast of the Arabian Sea, adds to its dramatic setting.

4. **The Baan-Stambh (Arrow Pillar)**

A unique and interesting feature found on the temple premises is the Baan-Stambh.

* **Inscription**: This pillar carries an inscription that, in Sanskrit, asserts that there is no landmass between the point where the pillar stands and the South Pole (Antarctica).

* **Historical Implication**: The inscription suggests that ancient Indian engineers and astronomers had a surprisingly accurate understanding of global geography, or at least the open nature of the Southern Ocean, which speaks to advanced knowledge centuries ago.

The present-day structure, designed by renowned architect Prabhashankar M. Sompura, is a masterpiece that respects the original historical Chalukya style while incorporating modern seismic considerations for durability.

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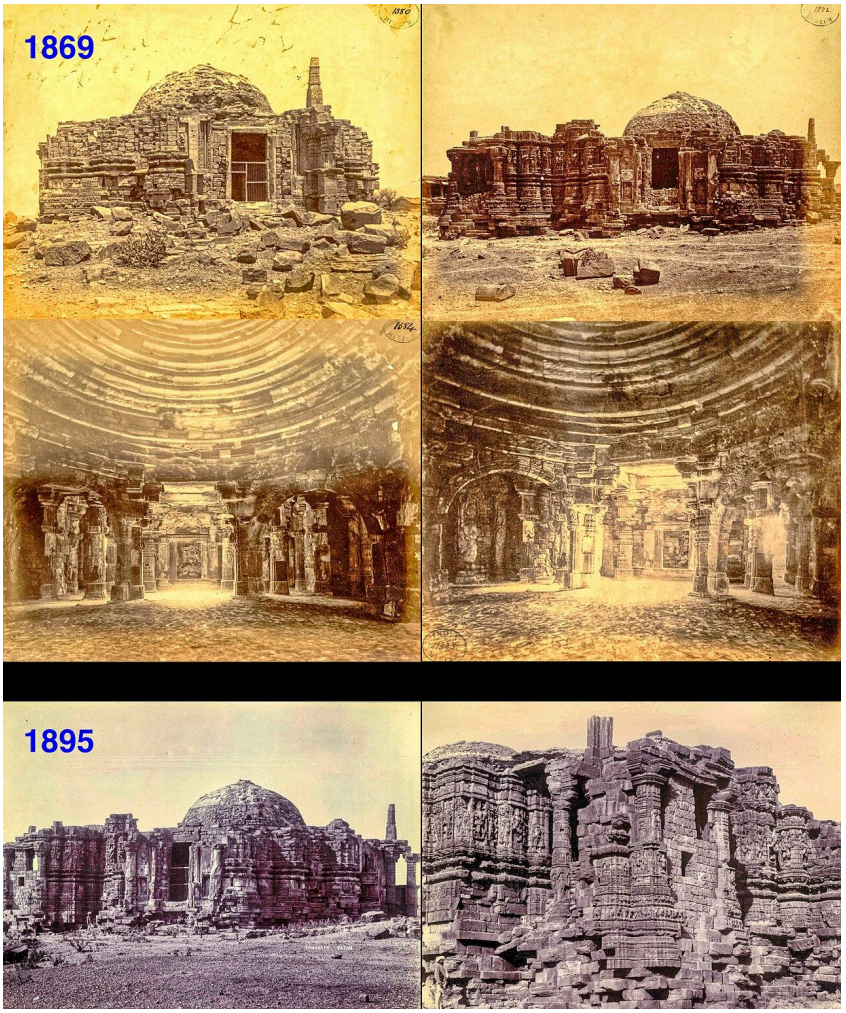
Photos



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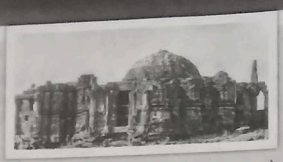

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ಗೋಪಾಲ ಪುರುಷೋತ್ತಮ

ಏನಿದು ಸೋಮನಾಥ ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನ ಪರ್ವ?

ಸೋಮನಾಥ ದೇಗುಲದ ಮೇಲೆ ಕ್ರಿ.ಶ.1026ರಲ್ಲಿ ಘಜ್ನಿ ಮೊಹಮದ್ ಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ದಾಳಿ ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದು ಬಳಿಕ ಅನೇಕರು 17 ಬಾರಿ ದಾಳಿ ನಡೆಸಿ ಅಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಸಂಪತ್ತನ್ನು ದೋಚಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೂ ಪ್ರತೀ ಬಾರಿ ದಾಳಿ ನಡೆಸಿದಾಗಲೂ ಮತ್ತೆ ತಲೆ ಎತ್ತಿ ನಿಂತಿದ್ದು ಈ ದೇಗುಲದ ಶಕ್ತಿ. ಈ ದೇಗುಲದ ಮೇಲೆ ನಡೆದ ಮೊದಲ ದಾಳಿಗೆ 2026ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾವಿರ ವರ್ಷ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು ಇಲ್ಲಿ 'ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನ ಪರ್ವ' ಎಂಬ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಆಚರಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಮೋದಿ ಶನಿವಾರವೇ ಆಗಮಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ಮೋದಿ ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಸೋಮನಾಥ ದೇಗುಲಕ್ಕೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಬಗ್ಗೆ ಫೋಟೋಗಳನ್ನು ಎಕ್ಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಸೋಮನಾಥ: ಮೊದಲ ಜ್ಯೋತಿರ್ಲಿಂಗ

ಗುಜರಾತಿನ ಸೌರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಜುನಾಗಢ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಪ್ರಭಾಸ್ ಪಠಾಣ್ ಎಂಬ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮದ ಅರಬ್ಬಿ ಸಮುದ್ರದ ತೀರದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸೋಮನಾಥೇಶ್ವರ ದೇಗುಲವು ಶಿವನಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಪಿತವಾದ 12 ಜ್ಯೋತಿರ್ಲಿಂಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇದು ಮೊದಲನೆಯದು. ಶಿವನು ಮೊದಲು ಲಿಂಗದ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಸ್ಥಳ ಎಂಬ ಐತಿಹ್ಯವಿದೆ. ಈ ದೇಗುಲವನ್ನು ಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಯಾರು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿದ್ದು ಎಂಬುದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಿಲ್ಲ, ಆದರೂ ಅನೇಕ ಬಾರಿ ದಾಳಿಗೆ ತುತ್ತಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲಿಕ್ಕೆ ನಿಧಿಯನ್ನು ದಾಳಿಕೋರರು ದೋಚಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೂ ಹಿಂದೂಗಳ ದೈವಭಕ್ತಿಯಿಂದ ಮತ್ತೆ ತಲೆ ಎತ್ತಿನಿಂತಿದೆ. ಈ ಸ್ಥಳ ತ್ರಿವೇಣಿ ಸಂಗಮವೂ ಆಗಿದೆ. ಸರಸ್ವತಿ, ಕಪಿಲ ಮತ್ತು ಹಿರಣ ನದಿಗಳು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಧಿಸುತ್ತವೆ.

ಕ್ರಿ.ಶ. 1026ರಲ್ಲಿ ಘಜ್ನಿಯಿಂದ ಮೊದಲ ದಾಳಿ

ಸೋಮನಾಥ ದೇಗುಲದ ಮೇಲೆ ಕ್ರಿ.ಶ. 1025-1026ರ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಫ್ಘಾನಿಸ್ತಾನದ ಘಜ್ನಿ ಮೊಹಮದ್ ಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ದಾಳಿ ನಡೆಸಿದನು. ಎರಡು ದಿನಗಳ ಕಾಲ ನಡೆದ ಯುದ್ಧದಲ್ಲಿ ಘಜ್ನಿ ದೇಗುಲ ಸೇರಿ ಇಡೀ ನಗರವನ್ನೇ ಪಶಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದನು. ದೇಗುಲವನ್ನು ಧ್ವಂಸಗೊಳಿಸಿದ್ದಲ್ಲದೇ, ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಾಪಿಸಿದ ಜ್ಯೋತಿರ್ಲಿಂಗವನ್ನು ವಿರೂಪಗೊಳಿಸಿದ್ದನು. ಆ ವೇಳೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 70 ಸಾವಿರ ಸೈನಿಕರನ್ನು ಕೊಲ್ಲಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಅಂದಿನಿಂದ ಸುಮಾರು 17 ಬಾರಿ ದಾಳಿಗೆ ತುತ್ತಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೊನೆಯದಾಗಿ 1706ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊಘಲ್ ದೊರೆ ಔರಂಗಜೇಬ್ ನೇತೃತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ದೇಗುಲದ ಮೇಲೆ ಮತ್ತೆ ದಾಳಿ ನಡೆದಿತ್ತು. ಈ ದಾಳಿಗಳ ಹೊಡತಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿ ದೇಗುಲ ತನ್ನ ಆಸ್ತಿತ್ವವನ್ನೇ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡಿತ್ತು.

ಪಟೇಲ್-ನೆಹರೂ ನಡುವೆ ಭಿನ್ನಾಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ

ಸೋಮನಾಥ ದೇಗುಲ ಮರು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲ ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ಜವಾಹರ್ ಲಾಲ್ ನೆಹರೂ ಹಾಗೂ ಸರ್ದಾರ್ ವಲ್ಲಭಭಾಯ್ ಪಟೇಲ್ ಅವರ ನಡುವೆ ಭಿನ್ನಾಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಗಳು ಉಂಟಾಗಿದ್ದವು. ನೆಹರೂ ಅವರು ಸರಕಾರವು ಯಾವುದೇ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳಿಂದ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ದೂರವಿರಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ನಂಬಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೆ ಪಟೇಲ್ ಅವರು ಸೋಮನಾಥ ದೇವಾಲಯವು ಕೇವಲ ಒಂದು ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಕೇಂದ್ರವಾಗಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ, ಅದು ಭಾರತದ ಮೇಲಿನ ವಿದೇಶಿ ಆಕ್ರಮಣಗಳ ಅವಮಾನವನ್ನು ಅಳಿಸಿ ಹಾಕುವ 'ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಹೆಮ್ಮೆಯ' ಸಂಕೇತವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆಕ್ರಮಣಕಾರರು ಧ್ವಂಸಗೊಳಿಸಿದ್ದನ್ನು ಸ್ವತಂತ್ರ ಭಾರತ ಮತ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುವುದು ನ್ಯಾಯೋಚಿತ ಎಂದು ವಾದಿಸಿದರು. ಇದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕವಾಗಿ ದೇಗುಲ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ದೇಣಿಗೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಮುಂದಾಗಿದ್ದರು.

ಪಟೇಲ್ ಅವರಿಂದ ಮರು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ

17 ದಾಳಿ ಬಾರಿ ದೇಗುಲದ ಮೇಲೆ ದಾಳಿ ನಡೆದರೂ ಕೂಡ ಹಿಂದೂ ರಾಜರುಗಳು ಅದನ್ನು ಮರು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಲೇ ಬಂದಿದ್ದರು. ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯದ ಅನಂತರ ಈ ದೇಗುಲವನ್ನು ಆಧುನಿಕವಾಗಿ ಮರು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮಾಡಲು ದೇಶದ ಮೊದಲ ಉಪಪ್ರಧಾನಿ, ಗೃಹಸಚಿವರಾಗಿದ್ದ ಸರ್ದಾರ್ ವಲ್ಲಭಭಾಯ್ ಪಟೇಲ್ ಅವರು 1947ರ ನವೆಂಬರ್ 12ರಂದು ಆಡಿಪಾಯ ಹಾಕಿದರು. ದೇಗುಲದ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವನ್ನು ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಮತ್ತು ಹಣಕಾಸು ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಪಟೇಲ್ ಅವರು ಸೋಮನಾಥ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್ ಅನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿದರು. ಇದು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಪುನರುಜ್ಜೀವನ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಹೆಮ್ಮೆಯ ಸಂಕೇತವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಅನಂತರ 1951ರ ಮೇ 11ರಂದು ಆಗಿನ ಭಾರತದ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಪತಿ ಡಾ। ರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಪ್ರಸಾದ್ ಅವರು ದೇಗುಲವನ್ನು ಉದ್ಘಾಟಿಸಿದರು.

ಆಧುನಿಕ ಸೋಮನಾಥ ದೇಗುಲದ ವೈಶಿಷ್ಟ್ಯ

ಗುಜರಾತ್‌ನ ನಾಗರ ಶೈಲಿಯ ಒಂದು ರೂಪವಾದ ಮರು-ಗುರ್ಜರ ವಾಸ್ತುಶಿಲ್ಪ ಎಂದೂ ಕರೆಯಲ್ಪಡುವ ಚಾಲುಕ್ಯ ಶೈಲಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಸೋಮನಾಥ ದೇಗುಲವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸ್ಥಳೀಯವಾಗಿ ಸಿಗುವ ಹಳದಿ ಮರಳುಗಲ್ಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ದೇಗುಲವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ದೇಗುಲದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಶಿಖರವು ಸುಮಾರು 155 ಅಡಿ ಎತ್ತರವಿದೆ. ಶಿಖರದ ತುದಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಧ್ವಜಸ್ತಂಭವು 37 ಅಡಿ ಉದ್ದವಿದೆ. ದಿನಕ್ಕೆ 3 ಬಾರಿ ಧ್ವಜವನ್ನು ಬದಲಾಯಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಣ ಸ್ತಂಭವಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಸ್ತಂಭದಿಂದ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಧ್ರುವದವರೆಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಭೂಭಾಗವಿಲ್ಲ, ಕೇವಲ ನೀರಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಗುಜರಾತ್‌ನ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಕಲ್ಲುಕುಟಿಗರ ಜಾಕಚ್ಚಕೃತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂಡಿಬಂದಿರುವ ನೃತ್ಯ ಮಂಟಪ, ಸಭಾಂಗಣ, ಗರ್ಭಗುಡಿಯನ್ನು ಕಾಣಬಹುದು.

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YouTube Videos

Somnath Mandir darshan, your guide (13 min):

https://youtu.be/IK4k2eyjjRw?si=EoXlj2VMppr-_8ke

Somnath tour 2024 (31 min):

https://youtu.be/7hcZm4K8ySY?si=IxYoP6RVwko7B5kZ

Somnath temple - complete guide (19 min):

https://youtu.be/bRCWukAHwgc?si=tOIjoanu3RSjnzLu

Somnath darshan (14 min):

https://youtu.be/YUWYaVLDhns?si=_SBMxI42Yi2n0uuj

Somnath temple (15 min):

https://youtu.be/VJkwp9XfxeU?si=ZcDGwbB-HdJaBJEg

Somnath temple - Kannada (4 min):

https://youtu.be/wgabIaPEbHY?si=xbDxRtEaAhq-AiCQ

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar

January 13, 2026

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